IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of San Luis Obispo, State of California

_____day _____, 20___

PRESENT: Supervisors

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BRANCH MILL ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT,

The following resolution is now offered and read:

WHEREAS, the Branch Mill Road Bridge (County Bridge #2020 BR2), which was built in 1949, has been identified as requiring replacement due to its condition and the desire to provide bridges that meet current public road and bridge design parameters and the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that the bridge meets Federal criteria for replacement and is eligible for funding by the Federal Highway Bridge Replacement Program (HBP); and

WHEREAS, the Branch Mill Road Bridge project is a multi-year project budgeted in the Road Fund for FY 2013-14 (WBS 300385) in the amount of $400,920 and will be funded from the HBP and the Road Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project consists of the replacement of Branch Mill Road Bridge over Tar Spring Creek (the "Project"); proposed activities under the Project include bridge demolition and construction activities, temporary bridge construction, staging, bank stabilization, habitat restoration, and fish passage improvement; and the Project includes elements to restore riparian and aquatic habitat, and reduce erosion and sedimentation in Tar Spring Creek; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration have been prepared for the Project and circulated for agency and public review and comment (the "Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration"), all in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, together with state and local guidelines implementing said Act, all as amended to date (collectively, "CEQA"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project and intends to take actions on the Project in compliance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project are, by this reference, incorporated into this Resolution as if fully set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, local CEQA Guidelines adopted by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 21082 of the Public Resources Code designate the Environmental Coordinator as the person to make environmental determinations and recommendations pursuant to CEQA, and the Environmental Coordinator has reviewed and recommended adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, as follows:

1. That the following findings are made:

    a) The Board of Supervisors has reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and other information in the whole record and has considered the information contained therein; and

    b) The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Project has been completed in compliance with CEQA; and

    c) The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration represents the independent judgment and analysis of the County as Lead Agency for the Project.

2. That the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared for the Project, which are attached hereto collectively as Exhibit A and are incorporated herein by reference, are hereby adopted; and

3. That the Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement project described in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is hereby approved and the Public Works Department is hereby directed to complete associated project development activities, including but not limited to: right-of-way processes; environmental regulatory permits; and preparation of final plans and specifications

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

the foregoing Resolution is hereby adopted on the ____ day of _____, 20___.

_____
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

[SEAL]

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: September 24, 2013

L:\DESIGN\OCT13\BOS\MND Branch Mill Road BR Replacement rsl.doc.MH:mac

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of San Luis Obispo, } ss.

I, _____, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, in and for the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of an order made by the Board of Supervisors, as the same appears spread upon their minute book.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Board of Supervisors, affixed this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

_____
County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors

(SEAL)

By _____
Deputy Clerk.

County File Number: ED12-063 (300385) SCH Number: _____

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BRANCH MILL ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works is proposing to replace the existing bridge on Branch Mill Road over Tar Spring Creek, in the southern area of San Luis Obispo County just east of Arroyo Grande. The primary purpose of the Project is to improve public safety by replacing the structurally deficient bridge, providing standard roadway widths, and adjusting the roadway alignment. The Project would replace the bridge on the existing alignment. As a result the road will be closed to the public for up to 5 months in order to replace the existing bridge, and construct the new roadway approaches. A temporary bridge would be placed downstream of the new bridge to allow for farm equipment and contractor access across the creek. The Project will result in the temporary disturbance of 2.19 acres and the permanent disturbance of approximately 1.4 acres. The project is located on Branch Mill Road, approximately 1,200 feet southwest of Huasna Road, east of the City of Arroyo Grande in the South County Inland Planning Area, Supervisorial District 4. Comments on this document should be sent to Katie Drexhage, County Department of Public Works, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Katie Drexhage, Environmental Programs Division
or
Cori Marsalek, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5252

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

7.25.2013 Ellen Carroll
Date Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Luis Obispo

The project proponent, who agrees to implement the mitigation measures for the project, is:

8/1/13 for Dave Flynn Deputy Director
Date Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project
ED12-063 / WBS 300385

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, & INITIAL STUDY

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600
Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities

(ver 5.0) Using Form

Project Title & No. **Public Works - Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project ED12-063 (300385)**

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Recreation
☒ Agricultural Resources	☒ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☐ Air Quality	☐ Noise	☐ Wastewater
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Population/Housing	☒ Water /Hydrology
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Public Services/Utilities	☐ Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Katie Drexhage — 7/25/13
Prepared by (Print) — Signature — Date

Steven McMasters — Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) — 7/25/13
Reviewed by (Print) — Signature — Date

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Current Planning Division, Rm. 200, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works is proposing to replace the existing bridge on Branch Mill Road over Tar Spring Creek, in the southern area of San Luis Obispo County just east of Arroyo Grande. The primary purpose of the Project is to improve public safety by replacing the structurally deficient bridge, providing standard roadway widths, and adjusting the roadway alignment. The proposed replacement bridge would be an approximately 105 feet long Pre-Cast, Pre-Stressed Concrete Bulb T bridge. The abutments would be located above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). However, rock slope protection and fill would be required in the creek banks to protect the proposed roadway approach. The Project would replace the bridge on the existing alignment. As a result the road will be closed to the public for up to 5 months in order to replace the existing bridge, and construct the new roadway approaches. A temporary bridge would be placed downstream of the new bridge to allow for farm equipment and contractor access across the creek. The Project will result in the temporary disturbance of 2.19 acres and the permanent disturbance of approximately 1.4 acres. The project is located on Branch Mill Road, approximately 1,200 feet southwest of Huasna Road, east of the City of Arroyo Grande (refer to Appendix A Vicinity and Location maps).

The existing bridge has been determined to be structurally deficient by Caltrans structure maintenance staff, making the bridge eligible for replacement under the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Bridge Program. The Branch Mill Road Bridge was constructed in 1949 and is a steel girder two-lane bridge with concrete abutments. The proposed replacement bridge would be an approximately 105 feet long Pre-Cast, Pre-Stressed Concrete Bulb T bridge. The abutments would be located above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). However, rock slope protection and fill would be required in the creek banks to protect the proposed roadway approach. Concrete seat type abutments would be supported on deep foundations with driven 16-inch steel piles. Piles would be located on the creek banks and outside of the OHWM.

A precast structure alternative does not require false work to be placed in the creek resulting in fewer impacts to the creek banks and reduces construction duration by approximately 4 weeks, relative to cast-in-place construction, resulting in fewer impacts to traffic. The abutments would be located above the ordinary high water mark but rock slope protection will be required on the creek banks to protect the proposed roadway approach. Concrete seat type abutments would be supported on deep foundations with either driven or drilled piles. The proposed road improvements include a paved width

of 32 feet (two 12-foot lanes and 4-foot paved shoulders) and unpaved shoulders 2 feet in width along each side of the road (refer to Appendix B, plan sheet).

The Project would replace the bridge on the existing alignment. As a result the road will be closed to the public for up to 5 months in order to replace the existing bridge, and construct the new roadway approaches. A temporary bridge would be placed downstream of the new bridge to allow for farm equipment and contractor access across the creek. The temporary bridge crossing would provide safe crossing for farm equipment and keep them from having to travel through town and creating potential safety issues and additional traffic delays. During construction, portions of fields on both sides of the bridge will be unable to be used by the landowner for farming purposes for 2 of the 3 growing seasons. An existing concrete check dam which is a partial fish passage barrier will also be removed as part of the Project.

Minor roadway realignment will be required in order to improve the existing roadway geometry for a higher design speed. Minor riparian removal and fills will be required for the minor realignment and also widening of the existing approach to provide for a standard width. Staging is anticipated to occur on the existing roadway.

Branch Mill Road is on the bus route for the following schools: Arroyo Grande High School, Paulding Middle School, Branch Elementary School and various special education schools. Arrangements will need to be made to accommodate or re-route these buses during construction when school is in session.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2015 and is anticipated to last 6 to 9 months in duration. The Project will result in the temporary disturbance of 2.19 acres and the permanent disturbance of approximately 1.4 acres

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): 047-161-005

Latitude: 35° 7' 58.389" Longitude: -120° 28' 21.864" **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT** # 4

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLANNING AREA: South County (Inland), Rural

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): Flood Hazard

TOPOGRAPHY: Gently rolling

VEGETATION: Grasses; riparian , wetland

PARCEL SIZE: N/A square feet

EXISTING USES: Agricultural uses

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Residential Suburban; scattered residences	*East:* Agriculture; agricultural uses
South: Agriculture; undeveloped	*West:* Agriculture; agricultural uses

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, several issues were identified as having potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. AESTHETICS *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Change the visual character of an area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Impact unique geological or physical features?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project will not be visible from any major public roadway or silhouette against any ridgelines as viewed from public roadways. The Project would be directly visible by vehicles traveling on the rural Branch Mill and Huasna roads but few, if any, stationary viewers. Viewers are not expected to have highly sensitive expectations for this structure, as it would be similar in scale to the existing structure, which is somewhat degraded and visually unappealing.

The Project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses. The Project would replace an existing bridge with a similar bridge at the same location. The new bridge would be similar in size and height, but would be widened to meet standard lane and shoulder width requirements.

Impact. Widening would require right-of-way acquisitions along the bridge and approach road alignments, resulting in removal of dense vegetation within the Tar Spring Creek riparian corridor and trees southwest of Branch Mill Road. No noise barriers, signage or significant landform changes would result from the Project. The existing timber bridge railing would be replaced with a concrete barrier railing, which would be larger, bulkier, and solid, blocking partial views down into the creek as you pass over the bridge. The proposed bridge structure would be similar in scale to the existing structure. It would be built at a 3-foot higher grade than the existing structure, but would not significantly protrude into the skyline. Construction impacts would be short term, lasting approximately nine months.

The Project would replace existing structures with a bridge of similar size and scale. The Project has been designed to minimize impacts to the creek, riparian habitat, farmlands and construction impacts. No significant visual impacts are expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Visual impacts would be mitigated through habitat restoration within and adjacent to Tar Spring Creek and restoration of construction access and staging areas. No additional visual mitigation measures are anticipated.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Convert prime agricultural land, per NRCS soil classification, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act program?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Project Elements. The following area-specific elements relate to the property's importance for agricultural production:

Land Use Category: Agriculture

State Classification: Not prime farmland, Prime Farmland if irrigated

Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: Yes, vegetable-rotational

In Agricultural Preserve? Yes, Arroyo Grande AG Preserve Area

Under Williamson Act contract? Yes

The soil type(s) and characteristics on the subject property include:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), has mapped eight soil series within the Project vicinity (SCS 1984) (refer to Figure 3), three of which occur in or directly adjacent to the Project area. The eight soils within the Project vicinity include map unit (MU) 111 – Camarillo sandy loam; 156 – Lopez very shaly clay loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes; 158 – Los Osos loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes; 160 - Los Osos loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes; 174 – Mocho loam, 192 – Psamments and fluvents, occasionally flooded; 194 – Riverwash; 204 – Santa Lucia shaly clay loam, 50 to 75 percent slopes. Descriptions of the three Mus that occur in or directly adjacent to the Project area are provided below.

Mocho Loam

Mocho loam is a very deep, well drained, and nearly level soil that occurs on alluvial fans and plains. This soil is formed in alluvium from sedimentary rocks and occurs at elevations ranging from 20 to 500 feet. The permeability of Mocho loam is moderately slow and the available water capacity is high to very high; surface run off is slow and erosion hazards are slight. This soil is moderately alkaline and calcareous. Mocho loam is well suited for farming; therefore, most occurrences of this soil are in cultivation. Typically, the surface layer of Mocho loam is brown loam to approximately 18 inches. Pale brown loam occurs from 18 to approximately 60 inches. By itself, Mocho loam is not considered a hydric soil. However, an unnamed inclusion in alluvial flats may meet hydric criteria 2a.

Riverwash

Riverwash includes soils found in active stream and river channels, and consists of excessively drained, water deposited sand, loamy sand, and sandy loam with varying amounts of gravel and cobbles present. Riverwash soils located in and along stream channels are generally subject to flooding during and immediately after every storm. Riverwash soils are typically excessively drained, but can be somewhat poorly drained in low lying areas. Permeability is very rapid, surface runoff is very slow, and the erosion hazard is variable. Typical inclusions include Psamments and Fluvents, and Corralitos soils. The SCS Comprehensive Hydric Soils List of San Luis Obispo County lists Riverwash and Psamments and Fluvents located in drainageways, as hydric soils. These soils have a Hydric Criteria Code of 4: soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Santa Lucia Shaly Clay Loam, 50 to 75 percent slopes

This very steeply sloping soil occurs on hillslopes and mountains with an elevation range of 100 to 2,500 feet. It is a moderately deep soil that is poorly drained. Permeability is moderate and the available water capacity is low to very low. The surface runoff is rapid and the potential for water erosion is high. Santa Lucia shaly clay loam is formed in residual material from sandstone or shale. Typically, the surface layer is dark gray shaly clay loam to about 17 inches. A grayish brown very shaly clay loam layer occurs from 17 to 36 inches; this layer is directly underlain by hard fractured shale. Although poorly suited for the use, areas containing Santa Lucia shaly clay loam are often used for rangelands. Santa Lucia shaly clay loam, 50 to 75 percent slopes is not considered a hydric soil.

Impact. The Project is bounded by Newsom Ridge to the south and agricultural fields to the north, west, and east. The soil is irrigated and therefore, the agricultural fields are considered prime farmland. The agricultural fields are active and utilize land up to the top-of-bank of Tar Spring Creek. The Project only encompasses small sections of agricultural land in the northern and southwestern portions of the Project site. These fields support row crops, fallow areas, and dirt roads and edges subjected to considerable disturbance. A temporary bridge would be placed downstream of the new bridge to allow for farm equipment and contractor access across the creek. The temporary bridge crossing would provide safe crossing for farm equipment and keep them from having to travel through town and creating potential safety issues and additional traffic delays. During construction, portions of fields on both sides of the bridge will be unable to be used by the landowner for farming purposes for 2 of the 3 growing seasons. Approximately 1.1 acres of agricultural fields will be temporarily impacted for these 2 growing seasons. Approximately 0.03 acre will be permanently impacted as a result of the project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary beyond the measure recommended by the County Agricultural Commissioner's office, below:

[AG-1] Ensure Contractor obtains all necessary grading permits for disposal of excavated materials outside of the County ROW.

3. AIR QUALITY

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?	☐		☒	☐
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3. AIR QUALITY

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant either considered in non-attainment under applicable state or federal ambient air quality standards that are due to increased energy use or traffic generation, or intensified land use change?	☐	☐	☒	☐
GREENHOUSE GASES				
f) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed and updated their CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are said to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature. This is commonly referred to as global warming. The rise in global temperature is associated with long-term changes in precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This is also known as climate change. These changes are now thought to be broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from the human production and use of fossil fuels.

The passage of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (e.g., SB97-Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated the APCD's CEQA Air

Quality Handbook. APCD determined that a tiered process for residential / commercial land use projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (e.g. Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,
2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project's annual GHG emissions; or,
3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 Metric Tons CO2/year (MT CO2e/yr) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the residential/commercial threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the California Air Resources Board (or other regulatory agencies) and will be "regulated" either by CARB, the Federal Government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio standards and the Clean Car standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

Bridge demolition activities may have negative air quality impacts, including issues surrounding proper handling, demolition, and disposal of asbestos or lead containing material. Notification requirements to the APCD will be required.

The Project site is not located near any mapped occurrences of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA); the closest outcrop of NOA is 5 to 8 miles east of the site (Tim Fuhs, office correspondence, November 20, 2012). The Project site is not located within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptors.

Impact. As proposed, the Project will result in the temporary disturbance of approximately 2.19 acres (95,803 square feet). This will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short-term vehicle emissions associated with construction activities. Based on Table 2-1 of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the Project will not result in an exceedance of the 2.5 ton PM_{10} quarterly threshold.

Using the GHG threshold information described in the Setting section, the Project is expected to generate less than the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 metric tons of GHG emissions. Therefore, the Project's potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions are found to be less significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to GHG emissions. Section 15064(h)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines provide guidance on how to evaluate cumulative impacts. If it is shown that an incremental contribution to a cumulative impact, such as global climate change, is not 'cumulatively considerable', no mitigation is required. Because this Project's emissions fall under the threshold established by the APCD, no mitigation is required.

The Project is consistent with the general level of development anticipated and projected in the Clean Air Plan with the inclusion of the mitigation measures discussed below.

Note: Soil Wind Erodibility Classifications on the parcel are as follows: 4-moderate; unclassified

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Project's cumulative contribution to GHG emissions is limited to construction and is relatively small and considered insignificant; therefore, no mitigation is necessary. The below standard County mitigation measures will further reduce impacts, but they are not necessary to reduce a significant impact.

[AQ-1] Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible.

[AQ-2] Use water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. An adequate water supply source must be identified. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible.

[AQ-3] All dirt stockpile areas should be sprayed daily as needed, covered, or an APCD approved alternative method will be used.

[AQ-4] Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities.

[AQ-5] Exposed ground areas that will be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast-germinating non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.

[AQ-6] All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD.

[AQ-7] All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.

[AQ-8] Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.

[AQ-9] All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114.

[AQ-10] The County will submit a Notification of Demolition to the APCD 10 days prior to bridge demolition activities.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species* or their habitats?	☐	☒	☐	☐

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any regional plans or policies to protect sensitive species, or regulations of the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* **Species – as defined in Section15380 of the CEQA Guidelines, which includes all plant and wildlife species that fall under the category of rare, threatened or endangered, as described in this section.**

Setting. The following are existing elements on or near the proposed Project relating to potential biological concerns:

On-site Vegetation: The areas surrounding Tar Spring Creek are managed for agricultural production; therefore, no native vegetative communities occur outside of the creek banks. Within the creek banks, Tar Spring Creek supports a dense Central Coast riparian scrub community. Central Coast riparian scrub consists of scrubby streamside thickets, varying from open to impenetrable, dominated by any of several willow species. The understory commonly supports species such as California blackberry and stinging nettle. The Project site supports a dense tree stratum dominated by arroyo willow, the shrub stratum includes various wetland shrubs including mule fat and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and the woody vine stratum includes dense coverage of California blackberry and chaparral clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*). Due to the dense upper stratum, the herb stratum is largely confined to the live channel of the creek. The creek channel supports moderate to dense cover of watercress and other wetland species.

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): Project spans Tar Spring Creek

Habitat(s): Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) shrubland alliance, coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) woodland, ruderal (disturbed), and agricultural areas.

Site's tree canopy coverage: Approximately 70%.

Based on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and an official species list issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 65 special-status plant species, 46 special-status animal species, and six sensitive habitats were considered for potential to occur within the Project site. Of these species that were considered, six special-status plant species and 16 special-status wildlife species were determined to have potential to occur in the Project site. Several juvenile steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), were the only special-status wildlife species observed in the Project site. Based on field surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period for identified plant species, no special-status plant species occur in the Project site.

With regards to steelhead, Tar Spring Creek (a tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek) is not specifically designated as critical habitat for the south/central California Coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead. However, Tar Spring Creek is a direct tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek which is designated critical habitat for this species. The confluence of Tar Spring Creek and Arroyo Grande Creek does not have any barriers to steelhead passage; therefore, steelhead in Arroyo Grande Creek can easily move into Tar Spring Creek.

Elevated sound levels from pile driving could result in additional temporary impacts to steelhead. Sound generated by pile driving can affect the behavior and physical health of fish that are subjected to the sound waves. The type and magnitude of the effects are dependent on the mass of the fish, the anatomy of the fish, and the location of the fish in the water in relation to the pile driving (Caltrans 2009). Pile driving activities would be conducted during seasonal low flows (June 15 through October 15), at which time surface water in Tar Spring Creek is expected to range from 0.5 to 1.0 feet deep. Flows are expected to be within 0 to 20 cubic feet per second. Pile driving would likely continue for four to six weeks, with one to two piles being installed daily. Work days are anticipated to be 8 to 10 hours during daylight. Although the number of strikes per pile is dependent on the size of hammer used, it estimated that approximately 1,500 strikes per day would be required.

The Project site also supports suitable habitat for California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*); however, the Project site is not within a critical habitat unit for this species. Based on the habitat conditions in the Project site and documented occurrences of California red-legged frog in the vicinity, presence of this species is inferred by the County.

Wildlife and floristic surveys were conducted between April of 2011 and August of 2012 by SWCA Environmental Consultants personnel. The Project site supports suitable conditions for 11 additional special-status wildlife species: monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*), coast range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*), southwestern pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*) (SWCA 2013a).

Impact. The Project site provides suitable habitat for two federally-listed species and 11 special-status wildlife species; therefore, Project activities could impact these species and/or their habitat. Additionally, vegetation removal will occur to facilitate bridge replacement activities.

Steelhead, California red-legged frogs, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes and their habitats may be impacted by proposed construction activities including implementation of the creek diversion and dewatering plan and removal of the existing concrete fish barrier. During the diversion and dewatering phase of the Project, steelhead and arroyo chub may be stranded within the shrinking pools of the Project site. Removal of riparian vegetation during proposed site preparation activities including channel excavation could potentially result in harm or take of California red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes. Indirect Project-related impacts to sensitive aquatic resources including discharge of pollutants (i.e. mechanical fuels, oils, sediments, etc.) into their habitat and the waters of Tar Spring Creek may result from grading and construction activities within the proposed Project area.

The proposed Project includes the use of impact hammers to install steel piles for the abutments. Pile driving activities would be conducted during seasonal low flows (June 15 through October 15), at which time, surface water in Tar Spring Creek are expected to range from 0.5 feet to 1.0 feet deep. Flows are expected to be within 0 to 20 cubic feet per second. Pile driving would likely continue for 4 to 6 weeks, with 1 to 2 piles being installed daily. Work days are anticipated to be 8 to 10 hours during daylight. Although the number of strikes per pile is dependent on the size of hammer used, it is

estimated that approximately 1500 strikes per day would be required. If pile driving alone proves to be difficult and requires excessive strikes, the contractors may center relief or pre-drill holes to expedite the pile installation process. The Natural Environment Study prepared for the Project includes an analysis of hydroacoustic effects on steelhead and other fishes. Utilizing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries hydroacoustic effects calculator and data from a Washington State Department of Transportation Underwater Sound Levels Associated with "Dry" Pile Driving at the Evans Creek Bridge on State Route 202 (WDOT 2006) monitoring program, the analysis determined that the proposed pile driving is not likely to significantly impact steelhead. Behavior Impacts may occur but the onset of physical injury is not likely to occur (SWCA 2013b).

The Project site is anticipated to permanently impact approximately 0.001 acre (46 square feet) of aquatic habitat for steelhead, California red-legged frogs, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes. Project activities are anticipated to temporarily impact 0.05 acre (2,318 square feet) of this aquatic habitat.

The Project is anticipated to permanently impact approximately 0.25 acre (10, 724 square feet) of upland habitat for California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes. Project activities are anticipated to temporarily impact approximately 0.46 acre (20,077 square feet) of this upland habitat.

Temporary impacts to steelhead, California red-legged frog, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt, and two-striped garter snake habitat would be associated with dewatering, heavy equipment operation, bridge construction, bridge demolition, and other Project related disturbances. Permanent impacts would result from installation of the proposed bridge abutments and RSP.

Direct impacts to California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes could include injury or mortality in adjacent riparian areas and uplands from construction equipment, construction debris, and worker foot traffic. However, these impacts will be mitigated with the presence of qualified biologists surveying for and moving these species outside of the Project area to suitable habitat. Indirect effects of construction activities, including noise and vibration, may cause California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes to abandon habitat adjacent to work areas. This disturbance may increase the potential for predation if California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes abandon shelter sites.

There would be a potential for take of California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes during construction in upland and riparian dispersal habitats associated with Tar Spring Creek and any necessary capture and relocation of California red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes. The proposed Project will also create temporary and/or permanent impacts to vegetation along the creek, which may offer shading and microhabitat temperature regulation in the channel; however, the loss of trees will be mitigated with replacement trees.

The Project would result in temporary impacts to steelhead and arroyo chub aquatic habitat. However, the Project is anticipated to result in beneficial long term impacts due to the removal of the passage barrier. Temporary impacts would be associated with dewatering, heavy equipment operation, bridge construction, bridge demolition, and other Project related disturbances. Permanent impacts to steelhead habitat would result from the placement of rock slope protection (RSP) at the proposed bridge abutments. If present in the action area during Project activities, individual steelhead could be stranded in dewatered portions of the creek, caught in dewatering pumps, or made vulnerable to predation from foraging birds and mammals. However, these impacts will be mitigated with the presence of qualified biologists surveying for and moving steelhead outside of the Project area to

suitable habitat. These activities would constitute direct take of the individuals through harassment. Indirect impacts could include sediment deposition downstream of the work area, which could adversely impact downstream water quality. However, this will be mitigated through the use of appropriate silt/erosion controls.

The indirect effects of erosion and sedimentation could impact steelhead, California red-legged frogs, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes. However, this will be mitigated through the use of appropriate silt/erosion controls. The removal of any encountered exotic wildlife species from Tar Spring Creek may produce a beneficial effect by reducing predation and competition pressures for steelhead, California red-legged frogs, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtles, coast range newts, and two-striped garter snakes.

Various bat species may be disturbed and/or abandon roosts if present on the existing bridge and/or nearby trees during construction activities. Preconstruction surveys would avoid and minimize impacts to bats.

The Project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel in construction equipment. A spill and clean-up kit will be stored onsite at all times. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. Prior to the onset of work, the County will ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills [BR-10 and -11]. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

Appropriate Project timing and site dewatering would minimize potential adverse effects to these species and would reduce temporary impacts to their habitats. With the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures such as preconstruction surveys and dewatering activities, this Project will have minimal, temporary effect on listed and sensitive species and their habitat. No adverse cumulative effects on biological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of this Project.

A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Because two Federally-listed species have been identified in or near the Project site, the proposed Project may impact steelhead & California red-legged frogs, as well as the following special-status species: monarch butterflies, arroyo chub, coast range newt, southwestern pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, western yellow-billed cuckoos, pallid bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, western mastiff bats, western red bats, and Yuma myotis' if they are present. The below mitigation measures will ensure that impacts to biological resources resulting from the Project are less than significant.

[BR-1]Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever is furthest from the streambed) of Arroyo Grande Creek. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

[BR-2] In-stream work shall take place between June 1 and October 31 in any given year, when the surface water within Tar Spring Creek is likely to be at seasonal minimum.

[BR-3] Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the boundaries of all construction areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion into adjacent creek/wetland habitats. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction.

[BR-4] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-5] During construction, no pets will be allowed on the construction site.

[BR-6] If determined to be necessary by Caltrans (lead federal agency), Caltrans will consult with NMFS and USFWS on behalf of the County for impacts to California red-legged frogs and steelhead. The County will adhere to all conditions included within the Biological Opinions issued for the Project.

[BR-7] Before any construction activities begin on the Project, a biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. The training session shall include a description of species that may be encountered during construction, the importance of these species and their habitat, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve these species as they relate to the Project, and the boundaries within which the Project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

[BR-8] Pile driving with impact hammers shall be limited to the low flow period between June 15 and October 15, thus avoiding adult steelhead spawning migration and peak smolt emigration.

[BR-9] When driving piles within 26 horizontal feet of surface water, the contractor will limit the number of daily strikes to 1500.

[BR-10] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations.

[BR-11] Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-12] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored onsite at all times.
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-13] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then the Project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County and Caltrans who will submit the information to USFWS and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-14] To avoid inadvertent impacts to steelhead, California red-legged frogs, monarch butterflies, arroyo chub, coast range newt, southwestern pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, western yellow-billed cuckoos, pallid bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, western mastiff bats, western red bats, Yuma myotis', and nesting birds, a biological monitor will conduct preconstruction surveys in Tar Spring Creek and adjacent areas within the Project site, conduct construction employee training prior to site disturbance, and continue monitoring during all initial earth disturbing activities and all diversion and dewatering activities. In the instance a listed or special-status species is discovered, the County shall contact Caltrans, CDFG, NMFS, and USFWS for consultation, unless otherwise authorized under an NMFS- or USFWS-issued *Biological Opinion*. In the instance nesting birds are discovered, work shall cease until the birds have fledged and left the area, or CDFG or USFWS shall be consulted. If any swallow nests are observed, empty nests shall be removed prior to February 15, and shall continue to be removed as they are being built to avoid impacts to active nests prior to construction.

[BR-15] During construction, if the work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes shall be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than five millimeters (5 mm) to prevent California red-legged frogs and steelhead from entering the pump system. Water shall be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any barriers to flow shall be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate.

[BR-16] Prior to construction, pre-construction surveys (at least two day-time and two at dusk) shall be conducted by qualified biologists no more than 30 days prior to construction to determine if bats are roosting in the Project area. The biologist(s) conducting the preconstruction surveys will also identify the nature of the bat utilization of the area (i.e., no roosting, night roost, day roost, maternity roost).

[BR-17] If bats are found to be roosting in the surveyed areas, the following measures will be implemented during construction:

a. If there is only night roosting by bats and the roost substrate will not be impacted, work may proceed as normal provided that no night-time work is scheduled.
b. If there is day roosting by bats (or night roosting and work during nighttime), qualified biologists shall monitor any construction activities within 100 ft (30 m) for disturbance to bat roosting. If bat roosting behavior is determined to be adversely impacted by construction activities, construction must be avoided in the vicinity of bat roosts until either bats are no longer roosting or they have been excluded from roosting.
c. If maternity roosts are detected, construction activities must be avoided within 100 ft (30 m) of an active maternity roost until the end of the maternity roosting season (end of September). No roost exclusion shall be conducted if maternity roosts are detected.

d. Readily visible exclusion zones shall be established in areas where roosts must be avoided.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Disturb archaeological resources?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Disturb historical resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb paleontological resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project is located within lands traditionally occupied by the Chumash. The precise location, however, of the boundary between the Chumashan-speaking Obispeño Chumash and their northern neighbors, the Hokan-speaking Playanos Salinan, is currently the subject of debate (Milliken and Johnson 2005). Jones and Waugh (1995:8) state that "those boundaries may well have fluctuated through time in response to possible shifts in economic strategies and population movement." No historic structures are present and no paleontological resources are known to exist in the area.

Impact. The Project's direct Area of Potential Effects (APE) is adjacent to Branch Mill Road in a rural portion near the city of Arroyo Grande (Figure 3). At the time of the field survey, ground surface visibility of the APE was variable due to vegetation, with the proposed staging areas and agricultural fields exhibiting the highest (75-100%) visibility, and the areas along the creek banks the lowest (<5%). In addition, a portion of the APE is completely obscured by existing Branch Mill Road.

An intensive pedestrian survey conducted on July 30, 2012 identified no previously unrecorded historic or prehistoric archaeological resources within the Project direct APE. A very sparse scatter (less than one fragment per 1,000 square meters) of Pismo clam (*Tivela stultorum*) was observed in the northern portion of the APE, within the agricultural fields north of Tar Spring Creek. The shell fragments were observed in a heavily plowed field in context with modern trash including plastic piping, beverage containers, and plastic sheeting. Given the extremely low density of the scatter and the lack of evidence that the shells represent historic or prehistoric activity, the shell scatter does not constitute an archaeological property.

A cultural resources records search for the Project was requested by County Archaeologist Kate Ballantyne, M.A., RPA, at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Coastal Information Center (CCIC) on July 29, 2011. A completed records search was returned on August 1, 2011. The CCIC records search identified 22 previously conducted cultural resources studies within a 1-mile radius of the direct APE. None of these studies identified any cultural resources within or adjacent to the APE. The CCIC records search indicates that seven previously recorded cultural resources are located within a 1-mile radius of the direct APE. None of these resources are located within or adjacent to the direct APE. A Phase 1 Survey concluded that no archaeological properties were found with the Project site. SWCA Environmental Consultants personnel conducted the Phase I pedestrian survey on July 25, 2012 (SWCA 2013c).

The Project is receiving funding from Caltrans as a part of their Federal Highway Bridge Program. It is Caltrans's policy to avoid cultural resources whenever possible. If buried cultural materials are encountered during construction, it is Caltrans's policy that work stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find. Additional surveys will be required if the Project changes to include areas not previously surveyed.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant cultural resource impacts are expected to occur, and no mitigation measures beyond those already built into the Project are necessary.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone", or other known fault zones*?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Include structures located on expansive soils?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) ***Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* **Per Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #42**

Setting. The following relates to the Project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Gently rolling

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No

Landslide Risk Potential: Low

Liquefaction Potential: Moderate

Nearby potentially active faults?: No Distance? Not applicable

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils?: No

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low

Other notable geologic features? None

Impact. As proposed, the Project will result in the temporary disturbance of approximately 2.19 acres

(95,803 square feet), and permanent disturbance of 1.4 acres (60,984 square feet). Although the Project area contains moderately liquefiable soils, no new buildings or major underground utilities are proposed as a part of the Project; therefore, mitigation is not warranted above and beyond the mitigation measures under the Biological Resources section relating to erosion control (BR-12, BR-18) (Fugro 2012).

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts to Geology and Soils were identified; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Create a hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼-mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on, or adjacent to, a site which is included on a list of hazardous material/waste sites compiled pursuant to Gov't Code 65962.5 ("Cortese List"), and result in an adverse public health condition?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) If within the Airport Review designation, or near a private airstrip, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high wildland fire hazard conditions?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The Project is not within the Airport Review area.

Asbestos

The existing structure is concrete (deck and pilings). West Coast Safety Consultants sampled felt located under the bridge on the concrete deck and no asbestos was detected. Additionally, San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building maps were referenced and it was determined that the site is not located near mapped occurrences of naturally occurring asbestos. The Project site is not located near any mapped occurrences of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA); the closest outcrop of NOA is 5 to 8 miles east of the site (Tim Fuhs, office correspondence, November 20, 2012). All Federal regulations regarding asbestos will be followed. The Air Pollution Control District will be coordinated with prior to any demolition related activities.

Lead

West Coast Safety Consultants conducted an inspection for lead-containing materials. Soil samples were collected from under the bridge and the painted surfaces of the bridge were tested. High levels of lead were detected in the paint. Relatively low levels of lead were detected in the soil beneath the bridge. Prior to demolition of the existing bridge, The County will ensure that the contractor has prepared a Lead Compliance Plan.

Flooding

Portions of the subject Project are within the 100-year Flood Hazard Combining designation (FH).

With regards to potential fire hazards, the subject Project is within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone(s). Based on the County's fire response time map, it will take approximately 6-10 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. Branch Mill Road is the secondary route for Five Cities Fire Department. As long as the primary route (Branch Mill Road to Huasna Road) remains open, Five Cities Fire Department has no concerns.

The Project is within the Terminal "dam inundation" area, and is approximately 2.5 miles below the dam. The boundary of the dam inundation area is intended to show the maximum water limit line should there be a catastrophic release/failure of the upstream dam.

Hazardous Materials

The Project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel in construction equipment. All equipment will be staged on the road. A spill and clean-up kit will be stored onsite at all times. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. Prior to the onset of work, the County will ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur (refer to BR-6).

Impact. The Project will include the use of hazardous materials (fuels and fluids), but will not generate hazardous wastes. The Project does not present a significant fire safety risk. The Project is not expected to conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan. The new bridge has been designed to handle a 100-year storm event and associated flooding. As a part of the Project, the area under and surrounding the bridge will be cleaned up.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation measures in addition to those regarding fuel and fluid handling under the Biological Resources Section will bring Project impacts to a less than significant level:

[HM-1] All work will be conducted in accordance to CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.

[HM-2] Work personnel will be educated on worker safety and appropriate disposal methods prior to handling hazardous materials.

[HM-3] Any staging or equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

8. NOISE *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate permanent increases in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people to severe noise or vibration?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) If located within the Airport Review designation or adjacent to a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to severe noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project is not within close proximity of loud noise sources, and will not conflict with any sensitive noise receptors (e.g., residences). Based on the Noise Element's projected future noise generation from known stationary and vehicle-generated noise sources, the Project is within an acceptable threshold area.

Noise impacts resulting from construction will be of a short duration, during normal work hours, and temporary in nature. It is not expected that County noise standards will be exceeded as a result of the Project. The following is one of the exceptions to the Noise Standards from the LUO: Noise sources associated with construction provided such activities do not take place before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday, or before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday. The County will abide by this time-frame during all Project activities. The Project is not expected to conflict with the surrounding uses.

Impact. The Project is not expected to conflict with the surrounding uses.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant noise impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary beyond limiting construction to the time-frames listed above.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly (e.g., construct new homes or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., extension of major infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Bridge replacement activities are not anticipated to result in substantial growth, development, or create a need for substantial housing in the community of Arroyo Grande. The Project is not anticipated to displace existing housing or people or require construction of replacement housing. Additionally, the Project will not result in substantial use of fuel or energy.

Impact. The Project will not result in a need for a significant amount of new housing, and will not displace existing housing.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant population and housing impacts are anticipated. No significant impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES *Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Roads?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Solid Wastes?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project area is served by the following public services/facilities:

Police: County Sheriff Location: Oceano (Approximately 2.4 miles to the west)

Fire: Cal Fire (formerly CDF) Hazard Severity: Very High Response Time: 6-10 minutes

Location: Approximately 5.0 miles to the northwest

School District: Lucia Mar Unified School District.

Impact. Branch Mill Road between Huasna Road and Newsom Springs Road will be closed to through traffic during the Project (approximately 5 months). Traffic will be re-routed through Arroyo Grande Village via Huasna Road, to Branch Street, to Traffic Way, to Cherry Avenue, and back on to Branch Mill Road. A temporary crossing will remain in place at the Project site for the local farm operations and contractor access.

The primary drivers of the roadway include agricultural traffic, traffic accessing Branch Elementary School, and residents from the Huasna Valley. Branch Mill Road offers access to the southerly end of Arroyo Grande Village and several residential developments.

Branch Mill Road is the secondary route for Five Cities Fire Department. As long as the primary route (Branch Mill Road to Huasna Road) remains open, Five Cities Fire Department has no concerns. One Branch Elementary School bus will need to use the detour. Closing the road toward the end of the school year and working during summer months will minimize impacts to school traffic.

The girders for the bridge will be pre-cast off-site and trucked to the site. It is not anticipated that trees will need to be cut down and/or roads widened to accommodate the transport of oversize loads. The most probable route will be Grand Avenue, to East Branch Street, to Huasna Road, to Branch Mill Road. The Contractor will finalize the route and may try to route via Grand Avenue, to Traffic Way, to Cherry Avenue, to Branch Mill Road. Traffic will be coordinated with local agencies (City of Arroyo Grande) to make sure the transport doesn't interfere with any City plans or events.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant public services/utilities impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are necessary.

11. RECREATION

	Will the project:	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a)	***Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	***Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	***Other*** _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Based on the County Trails Map, the Project is within reasonably close proximity to the Arroyo Grande Creek Trail.

Impact. Project activities associated with bridge replacement will not interfere with the proposed location of the trail. The bridge will be replaced along its current alignment.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant recreation impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

12. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Reduce existing "Level of Service" on public roadway(s)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Provide for adequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with an established measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system considering all modes of transportation (e.g. LOS, mass transit, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. The Project is located in a rural area. Branch Mill Road accommodates moderate traffic volumes, averaging approximately 1240 vehicles/day (2010 data).

Branch Mill Road between Huasna Road and Newsom Springs Road will be closed to through traffic during the Project (approximately 5 months). Traffic will be re-routed through Arroyo Grande Village via Huasna Road, to Branch Street, to Traffic Way, to Cherry Avenue, and back on to Branch Mill Road. A temporary crossing will remain in place at the Project site for the local farm operations and contractor access.

The primary drivers of the roadway include agricultural traffic, traffic accessing Branch Elementary School, and residents from the Huasna Valley. Branch Mill Road offers access to the southerly end of Arroyo Grande Village and several residential developments.

Branch Mill Road is the secondary route for Five Cities Fire Department. As long as the primary route (Branch Mill Road to Huasna Road) remains open, Five Cities Fire Department has no concerns. One Branch Elementary School bus will need to use the detour. Closing the road toward the end of the school year and working during summer months will minimize impacts to school traffic.

Traffic times will be increased for traffic heading south on Highway 101 and for traffic accessing Branch Elementary School. This small amount of additional traffic will not result in a significant change to the existing road service or traffic safety levels. The Project does not conflict with adopted policies,

plans and programs on transportation.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant transportation/circulation impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by ordinance are necessary.

13. WASTEWATER *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. The proposed Project involves replacing a bridge which is not anticipated to generate waste or wastewater or adversely affect wastewater facilities and solid waste capacity. A portable chemical toilet will be available for use by construction crews. No impacts resulting from wastewater would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
QUALITY				
a) Violate any water quality standards?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, sediment, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
e) Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?	☐	☐	☒	☐
QUANTITY				
h) Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Adversely affect community water service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Expose people to a risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding (e.g., dam failure,etc.), or inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
k) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Water quality within Tar Spring Creek may be impacted by proposed construction activities including implementation of the creek diversion and dewatering plan and removal of the existing concrete check dam (aka, fish passage barrier). As discussed above under Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the Project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel in construction equipment. However, a spill and clean-up kit will be stored onsite at all times and all fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body.

The topography of the Project is gently rolling. The closest creek from the proposed development is on site. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have low to moderateerodibility.

The Project involves more than one acre of disturbance and is subject to preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to minimize on-site sedimentation and erosion. Temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be implemented during and after construction activities are complete (BR-7 & BR-13).

DRAINAGE – The following relates to the Project's drainage aspects:

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes; The Project will construct a bridge with sufficient height above the 100-year flood line)

Closest creek? Tar Spring Creek Distance? on-site

Soil drainage characteristics: Well drained (Psamments and Fluvents) to moderately drained (Mocho loam) to poorly drained (Riverwash)

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION –The Project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the

previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the Project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: Low to moderate

Impact – Water Quality/Hydrology

With regards to Project impacts on water quality the following conditions apply: ***(choose applicable items)***

- ✓ Approximately 2.19 acres of temporary site disturbance is proposed;
- ✓ The Project will be subject to standard County requirements for drainage, sedimentation and erosion control for construction and permanent use;
- ✓ The Project will be disturbing over an acre and will be required to prepare a SWPPP, which will be implemented during construction;
- ✓ Stockpiles will be properly managed during construction to avoid material loss due to erosion;
- ✓ All hazardous materials and/or wastes will be properly stored on-site, which include secondary containment should spills or leaks occur;

The Project could result in water quality impacts through dewatering activities, the discharge of sediments during construction, or the accidental spill of petroleum based fuels or lubricants. The Project will not affect groundwater levels. Dewatering at the site would be localized and return of pumped water to the stream would prevent any decrease in groundwater in Arroyo Grande Valley.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Degradation to water quality within Tar Spring Creek before and during construction activities would be mitigated by the implementation of a dewatering and diversion plan, mitigation and monitoring plan, and best management practices to prevent erosion/sedimentation. The County is also required to obtain a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to commencement of site disturbance (Mitigation Measures BR-1, BR-10, BR-11, BR-12, and BR-18).

Based on the discussion above and implementation of all recommended mitigation measures, all on-site, off-site, direct, in-direct, and cumulative hydrology and water quality impacts associated with the proposed Project are less than significant.

15. LAND USE

Will the project:

	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
a) Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [County Land Use Element and Ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐

15. LAND USE

Will the project:

	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses are identified on Page 3 of the Initial Study. The proposed Project was reviewed for consistency with policy and/or regulatory documents relating to the environment and appropriate land use (e.g., County Land Use Ordinance, etc.). Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., CAL FIRE for Fire Code, APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). The Project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used).

The Project is within a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) area. The proposed HCP will address water releases from Lopez Dam and the effect of those releases on federally listed species within Arroyo Grande Creek. The Project will not affect the Habitat Conservation Planning effort. Federally listed species habitat improvements associated with this Project will occur independently of and not impair the on-going HCP process. The Project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses as summarized on page 2 of this Initial Study.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No inconsistencies were identified and therefore no additional measures above what will already be required were determined necessary.

16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

For further information on CEQA or the county's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning Department has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an ☒) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Contacted	Agency	Response
☒	County Public Works Department	**Project Proponent**
☐	County Environmental Health Division	**Not Applicable**
☒	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	**In File****
☐	County Airport Manager	**Not Applicable**
☐	Airport Land Use Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	Air Pollution Control District	**In File****
☐	County Sheriff's Department	**Not Applicable**
☒	Regional Water Quality Control Board	**None**
☐	CA Coastal Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	**None**
☐	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☐	Community Service District	**Not Applicable**
☒	Other _____	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
☒	Other _____	Oceano CSD

** *"No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached*

The following checked ("☒") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

☒ Project File for the Subject Application

☐ Solid Waste Management Plan

County documents

- ☐ Airport Land Use Plans
- ☒ Annual Resource Summary Report
- ☐ Building and Construction Ordinance
- ☐ Coastal Policies
- ☒ Framework for Planning (Coastal & Inland)
- ☒ General Plan (Inland & Coastal), including all maps & elements; more pertinent elements considered include:
  - ☒ Agriculture & Open Space Element
  - ☒ Energy Element
  - ☒ Environment Plan (Conservation, Historic and Esthetic Elements)
  - ☒ Housing Element
  - ☒ Noise Element
  - ☒ Parks & Recreation Element
  - ☒ Safety Element
- ☒ Land Use Ordinance
- ☐ Real Property Division Ordinance
- ☒ Trails Plan

☐ Area Plan and Update EIR
☐ Circulation Study

Other documents

☒ Archaeological Resources Map
☒ Area of Critical Concerns Map
☒ Areas of Special Biological Importance Map
☒ California Natural Species Diversity Database
☒ Clean Air Plan
☒ Fire Hazard Severity Map
☒ Flood Hazard Maps
☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
☒ Regional Transportation Plan
☒ Uniform Fire Code
☒ Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
☒ GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)
☐ Other

In addition, the following Project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

County References

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2009. Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish. Prepared by ICF Jones & Stokes, Illingworth and Rodkin, Inc. February 2009.

Fugro Consultants, Inc. 2012. Foundation Report Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Over Tar Spring Creek BRLO-5949(116), Bridge No. 49C-0143 San Luis Obispo County, California (Draft). Prepared for Quincy Engineering, Inc.

Jones, Terry L. and Georgie Waugh. 1995. *Central California Prehistory: A View from Little Pico Creek.* Perspectives in California Archaeology 3. Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Milliken, Randall and John R. Johnson. 2005. An Ethnogeography of the Salinan and Northern Chumash Communities – 1769 to 1810. Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. Submitted to California Department of Transportation, District 5. On file at SWCA Environmental Consultants, South Pasadena, California.

SWCA Environmental Consultants. 2013a. Branch Mill Road at Tar spring Creek Highway Bridge Replacement Project, Biological Assessment. Prepared for Caltrans, District 5.

SWCA Environmental Consultants. 2013b. Branch Mill Road at Tar spring Creek Highway Bridge Replacement Project, Natural Environment Study. Prepared for Caltrans, District 5.

SWCA Environmental Consultants. 2013c. Archaeological Survey Report for the Branch Mill Road at Tar Spring Creek Bridge Replacement Project, Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, California. Prepared for Caltrans, District 5.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WDOT) Office of Air Quality and Noise. 2006. Underwater Sound Levels Associated with “Dry” Pile Driving at the Evans Creek Bridge on SR 202. September 2006.

West Coast Safety Consultants. 2012a. Lead Inspection – Branch Mill Road Bridge, Arroyo Grande, California. Prepared for Rosalyn Piza, County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Public Works. 2 pg + appendices.

West Coast Safety Consultants. 2012b. Asbestos Inspection – Branch Mill Road Bridge, Arroyo Grande, California. Prepared for Rosalyn Piza, County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Public Works. 2 pg + appendices.
C:\Environmental\InitialStudy\Checklist\Possible References.doc

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

[AG-1] Ensure Contractor obtains all necessary grading permits for disposal of excavated materials outside of the County ROW.

AIR QUALITY

[AQ-1] Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible.

[AQ-2] Use water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. An adequate water supply source must be identified. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible.

[AQ-3] All dirt stockpile areas should be sprayed daily as needed, covered, or an APCD approved alternative method will be used.

[AQ-4] Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities.

[AQ-5] Exposed ground areas that will be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast-germinating non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.

[AQ-6] All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD.

[AQ-7] All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.

[AQ-8] Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.

[AQ-9] All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114.

[AQ-10] The County will submit a Notification of Demolition to the APCD 10 days prior to bridge demolition activities.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

[BR-1]Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever is furthest from the

streambed) of Arroyo Grande Creek. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

[BR-2] In-stream work shall take place between June 1 and October 31 in any given year, when the surface water within Tar Spring Creek is likely to be at seasonal minimum.

[BR-3] Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the boundaries of all construction areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion into adjacent creek/wetland habitats. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction.

[BR-4] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-5] During construction, no pets will be allowed on the construction site.

[BR-6] If determined to be necessary by Caltrans (lead federal agency), Caltrans will consult with NMFS and USFWS on behalf of the County for impacts to California red-legged frogs and steelhead. The County will adhere to all conditions included within the Biological Opinions issued for the Project.

[BR-7] Before any construction activities begin on the Project, a biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. The training session shall include a description of species that may be encountered during construction, the importance of these species and their habitat, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve these species as they relate to the Project, and the boundaries within which the Project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

[BR-8] Pile driving with impact hammers shall be limited to the low flow period between June 15 and October 15, thus avoiding adult steelhead spawning migration and peak smolt emigration.

[BR-9] When driving piles within 26 horizontal feet of surface water, the contractor will limit the number of daily strikes to 1500.

[BR-10] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations.

[BR-11] Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-12] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored onsite at all times.
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-13] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 –

September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then the Project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County and Caltrans who will submit the information to USFWS and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-14] To avoid inadvertent impacts to steelhead, California red-legged frogs, monarch butterflies, arroyo chub, coast range newt, southwestern pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, western yellow-billed cuckoos, pallid bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, western mastiff bats, western red bats, Yuma myotis', and nesting birds, a biological monitor will conduct preconstruction surveys in Tar Spring Creek and adjacent areas within the Project site, conduct construction employee training prior to site disturbance, and continue monitoring during all initial earth disturbing activities and all diversion and dewatering activities. In the instance a listed or special-status species is discovered, the County shall contact Caltrans, CDFG, NMFS, and USFWS for consultation, unless otherwise authorized under an NMFS- or USFWS-issued *Biological Opinion*. In the instance nesting birds are discovered, work shall cease until the birds have fledged and left the area, or CDFG or USFWS shall be consulted. If any swallow nests are observed, empty nests shall be removed prior to February 15, and shall continue to be removed as they are being built to avoid impacts to active nests prior to construction.

[BR-15] During construction, if the work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes shall be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than five millimeters (5 mm) to prevent California red-legged frogs and steelhead from entering the pump system. Water shall be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any barriers to flow shall be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate.

[BR-16] Prior to construction, pre-construction surveys (at least two day-time and two at dusk) shall be conducted by qualified biologists no more than 30 days prior to construction to determine if bats are roosting in the Project area. The biologist(s) conducting the preconstruction surveys will also identify the nature of the bat utilization of the area (i.e., no roosting, night roost, day roost, maternity roost).

[BR-17] If bats are found to be roosting in the surveyed areas, the following measures will be implemented during construction:

a. If there is only night roosting by bats and the roost substrate will not be impacted, work may proceed as normal provided that no night-time work is scheduled.
b. If there is day roosting by bats (or night roosting and work during nighttime), qualified biologists shall monitor any construction activities within 100 ft (30 m) for disturbance to bat roosting. If bat roosting behavior is determined to be adversely impacted by construction

activities, construction must be avoided in the vicinity of bat roosts until either bats are no longer roosting or they have been excluded from roosting.

c. If maternity roosts are detected, construction activities must be avoided within 100 ft (30 m) of an active maternity roost until the end of the maternity roosting season (end of September). No roost exclusion shall be conducted if maternity roosts are detected.
d. Readily visible exclusion zones shall be established in areas where roosts must be avoided.

[BR-18] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

[HM-1] All work will be conducted in accordance to CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.

[HM-2] Work personnel will be educated on worker safety and appropriate disposal methods prior to handling hazardous materials.

[HM-3] Any staging or equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

Mitigation Monitoring Plan

The purpose of a Mitigation Monitoring Plan is to provide a program to examine, document and record compliance with the environmental plans and specifications pertinent to the proposed project, in order to comply with Section 21081.6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This plan provides the standards and methods necessary to ensure and document the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures which have been included in the project description as well as with the conditions of approval placed on project permits. Responsibility for ensuring successful implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan lies with the County of San Luis Obispo, as the project proponent and Lead Agency for the project under CEQA.

If the recommended mitigation measures and monitoring plan are implemented successfully, the potential significant adverse effects stemming from project construction will be reduced to a level of insignificance.

Mitigation monitoring will be carried out by the Environmental Programs Division of the County's Department of Public Works. The Environmental Programs Division provides environmental services to the Department of Public Works, including mitigation compliance and monitoring, with CEQA oversight by the County's Environmental Coordinator.

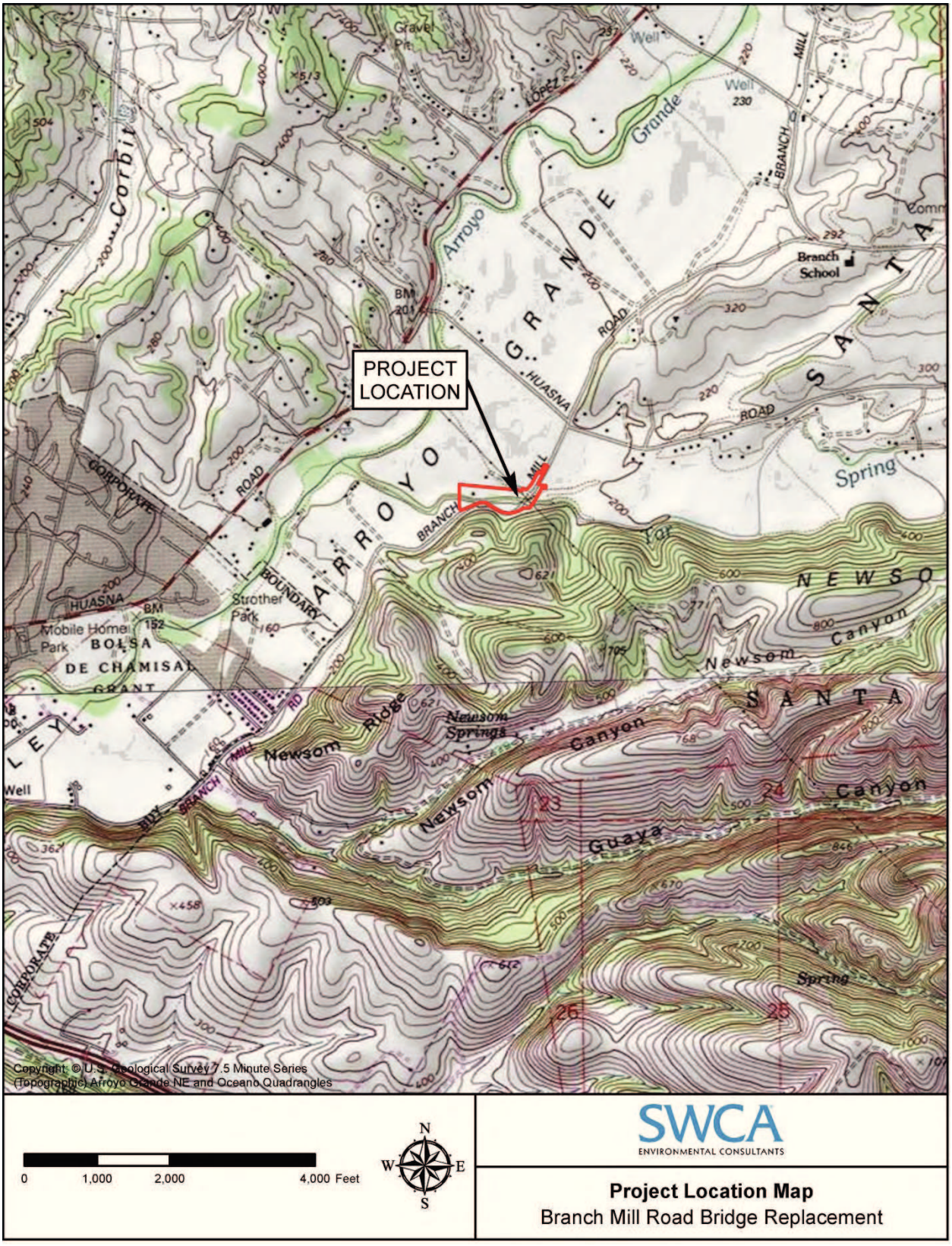
Upon approval of the CEQA document, and issuance of all required permits, the Environmental Programs Division will assign internal responsibility for compliance with each mitigation measure to one or more members of the project team. Responsible parties include the Environmental Programs Division, the Project Manager (PM), the Resident Engineer (RE), and/or on-site monitors.

Mitigation measures are organized into project design, pre-construction, construction, and post construction tasks. Compliance with mitigation measures is documented in the project file through written reports, accompanied by project photos where necessary. Post construction monitoring of revegetation and other project components is documented by yearly reports, on a schedule typically determined by one or more of the project permits. Depending on the complexity of the post construction mitigation effort, tasks will be carried out by county staff or technical experts under contract to the County. Post construction monitoring is typically conducted for three to five years, depending on permit requirements and success criteria.

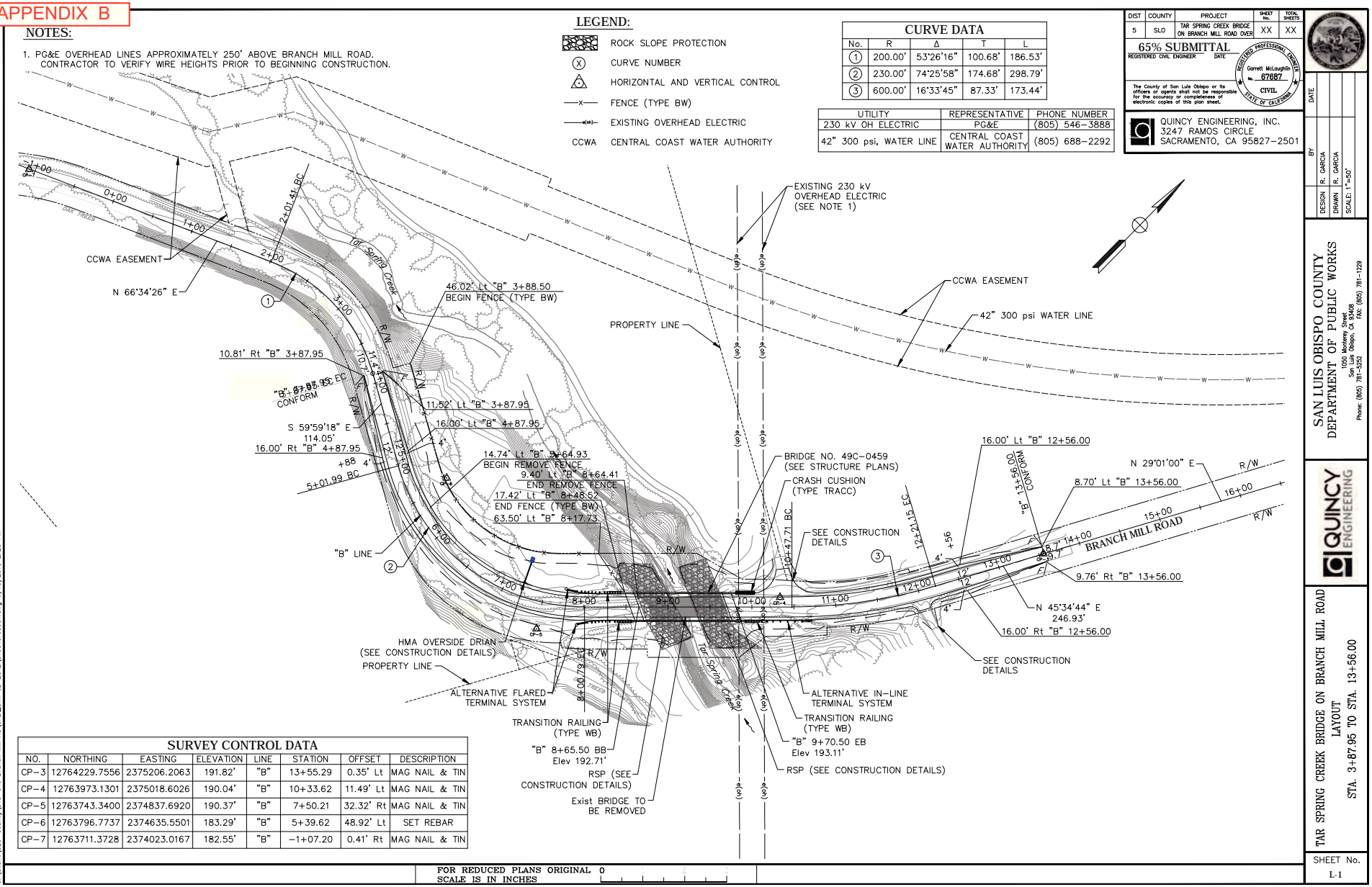
Where necessary, construction personnel will be required to attend a crew orientation meeting. The meeting will be conducted by the RE and will be used to acquaint the construction crews with the environmental sensitivities of the project site. The orientation meeting shall place an emphasis on the need for adherence to the mitigation measures and permit conditions as well as the need for cooperation and communication among all parties concerned (i.e., RE, Environmental Programs Division, Environmental Coordinator, construction personnel) in working together to solve problems and arrive at solutions in the field.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2. Project Location Map



APPENDIX B


NOTES:
1. PG&E OVERHEAD LINES APPROXIMATELY 250' ABOVE BRANCH MILL ROAD. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY WIRE HEIGHTS PRIOR TO BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION.
LEGEND:
ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION
CURVE NUMBER
HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CONTROL
FENCE (TYPE BW)
EXISTING OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
CCWA CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
CURVE DATA
No. R Δ T L
1 200.00' 53°26'16" 100.68' 186.53'
2 230.00' 74°25'58" 174.68' 298.79'
3 600.00' 16°33'45" 87.33' 173.44'
UTILITY REPRESENTATIVE PHONE NUMBER
230 kV OH ELECTRIC PG&E (805) 546-3888
42" 300 psi, WATER LINE CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY (805) 688-2292
DIST COUNTY PROJECT SHEET No. TOTAL SHEETS
5 SLO TAR SPRING CREEK BRIDGE ON BRANCH MILL ROAD OVER XX XX
65% SUBMITTAL
REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER DATE
Garrett McLaughlin No. 67687 CIVIL
The County of San Luis Obispo or its officers or agents shall not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of electronic copies of this plan sheet.
QUINCY ENGINEERING, INC.
3247 RAMOS CIRCLE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-2501
EXISTING 230 kV OVERHEAD ELECTRIC (SEE NOTE 1)
CCWA EASEMENT
42" 300 psi WATER LINE
PROPERTY LINE
N 66°34'26" E
CCWA EASEMENT
46.02' Lt "B" 3+88.50
BEGIN FENCE (TYPE BW)
10.81' Rt "B" 3+87.95
11.52' Lt "B" 3+87.95
16.00' Lt "B" 4+87.95
S 59°59'18" E
114.05'
16.00' Rt "B" 4+87.95
14.74' Lt "B" 5+64.93
BEGIN REMOVE FENCE
9.40' Lt "B" 6+64.41
END REMOVE FENCE
17.42' Lt "B" 8+48.52
END FENCE (TYPE BW)
63.50' Lt "B" 8+17.73
"B" LINE
BRIDGE NO. 49C-0459
(SEE STRUCTURE PLANS)
CRASH CUSHION
(TYPE TRACC)
SEE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
16.00' Lt "B" 12+56.00
8.70' Lt "B" 13+56.00
N 29°01'00" E
9.76' Rt "B" 13+56.00
N 45°34'44" E
246.93'
16.00' Rt "B" 12+56.00
BRANCH MILL ROAD
HMA OVERSIDE DRIAN
(SEE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS)
PROPERTY LINE
ALTERNATIVE FLARED TERMINAL SYSTEM
TRANSITION RAILING (TYPE WB)
"B" 8+65.50 BB
Elev 192.71'
RSP (SEE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS)
Exist BRIDGE TO BE REMOVED
ALTERNATIVE IN-LINE TERMINAL SYSTEM
TRANSITION RAILING (TYPE WB)
"B" 9+70.50 EB
Elev 193.11'
RSP (SEE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS)
Tar Spring Creek
R/W
SURVEY CONTROL DATA
NO. NORTHING EASTING ELEVATION LINE STATION OFFSET DESCRIPTION
CP-3 12764229.7556 2375206.2063 191.82' "B" 13+55.29 0.35' Lt MAG NAIL & TIN
CP-4 12763973.1301 2375018.6026 190.04' "B" 10+33.62 11.49' Lt MAG NAIL & TIN
CP-5 12763743.3400 2374837.6920 190.37' "B" 7+50.21 32.32' Rt MAG NAIL & TIN
CP-6 12763796.7737 2374635.5501 183.29' "B" 5+39.62 48.92' Lt SET REBAR
CP-7 12763711.3728 2374023.0167 182.55' "B" -1+07.20 0.41' Rt MAG NAIL & TIN
FOR REDUCED PLANS ORIGINAL 0
SCALE IS IN INCHES
DESIGN R. GARCIA
DRAWN R. GARCIA
BY DATE
SCALE: 1"=50'
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Phone: (805) 781-5252 FAX: (805) 781-1229
QUINCY ENGINEERING
TAR SPRING CREEK BRIDGE ON BRANCH MILL ROAD
LAYOUT
STA. 3+87.95 TO STA. 13+56.00
SHEET No.
L-1
S:\Client\SLO-County\513-910 Branch Mill Rd\CAD_Civil 3D 2012\513910ea001.dwg 6/13/2013 2:25 PM